

- **Leading Cause of Death for 5-14 Year Olds With Mortality Rates Per 100,000 Population -** Although traditionally accidents and adverse affects is the leading cause of death for this age group, the health council found cancer to be increasing. Cancer mortality rates in this age group were higher than the State and the Southeast Region. Such rates represent 1 to 2 deaths attributable to cancer each year.

YEAR	85-87	86-88	87-89	88-90	89-91	90-92	91-93	92-94	93-95	94-96
RHEA -CANCER 5-14 year olds	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.0	18.8	27.8	9.2	13.7

- **Leading Cause of Death for 15-24 Year Olds With Mortality Rates Per 100,000 Population -** The leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds was accidents and adverse affects, also. While characterized as slightly unstable due to small numbers, the Rhea County trend has slightly increased during the twelve-year trend and has recently surpassed the State and the Southeast Region.
- **Leading Cause of Death for 25-44 Year Olds With Mortality Rates Per 100,000 Population -** The leading cause of death for the 25-44 year old age group is accidents and adverse affects. Traditionally, Rhea County's trend is slightly unstable due to small numbers, but is generally lower than that of the State and the Southeast Region. However, from 1985 to 1996, there was a 61.2% increase in the number of deaths attributed to heart disease in the 25-44 year old age group and represents 3-4 deaths annually.

YEAR	85-87	86-88	87-89	88-90	89-91	90-92	91-93	92-94	93-95	94-96	<i>Percent Change</i>
RHEA - HEART 25-44 year olds	38.1	38.0	38.0	28.4	23.5	9.4	23.2	45.9	54.7	61.4	61.2

- **Leading Cause of Death for 45-64 Year Olds With Mortality Rates Per 100,000 Population -** Malignant Neoplasms or cancer is the leading cause of death for this age group. The health council found cancer to be increasing in Rhea County and cancer mortality rates to be higher than the State and the Southeast Region. Such rates represent roughly 20 deaths attributable to cancer annually.

YEAR	85-87	86-88	87-89	88-90	89-91	90-92	91-93	92-94	93-95	94-96	<i>Percent Change</i>
RHEA - CANCER 45-64 year olds	247.6	277.9	313.9	321.8	320.4	303.1	338.6	335.7	344.1	309.4	25.0

- **Leading Cause of Death for 65+ Year Olds With Mortality Rates Per 100,000 Population -** Heart disease was the leading cause of death for this age group and county rates had decreased over the twelve year trend, however the council found flu and pneumonia mortality rates to be on the increase. Such rates represent roughly 8 deaths attributable to flu and pneumonia annually.

YEAR	85-87	86-88	87-89	88-90	89-91	90-92	91-93	92-94	93-95	94-96	<i>Percent Change</i>
RHEA - FLU AND PNEUMONIA 65+ year olds	136.3	153.7	140.3	186.2	201.1	186.4	198.9	227.8	263.4	231.2	69.6

- **White Male Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population -** The Rhea County trend has historically been unstable with periods when rates were higher than the State and the Southeast Region and other periods when rates were lower than the State and the Southeast Region. However, in recent years the trend has begun to decrease and is presently lower than both the State and Region.
- **Other Races Male Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate Per 100,000 Population -** The Rhea County trend is unstable due to small numbers. However in recent years the trend has been on a steady decrease and is